

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A powdered thickener preparation produced by forming a solution, suspension or melt of a mixture comprising
 - a) at least one urethane group-containing, water-soluble or water-dispersible thickener,
 - b) at least one substance solid at room temperature
 - c) optionally a non-ionic, aromatic or aliphatic emulsifier and
 - d) optionally other auxiliary substancesand subsequently converting the products obtained into powder form by
- 10 drying or grinding.
2. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) is a water-insoluble substance with an average particle size of $< 20 \mu\text{m}$.
3. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises a water-soluble substance.
- 15 4. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises pyrogenic silica.
5. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate or mixtures thereof.
6. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises barium sulfate, titanium dioxide or talcum.
- 20 7. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises cellulose, sugar or a water-soluble carbohydrate.
8. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises a water-soluble (co)polymer salt of acrylic, methacrylic or
- 25 aspartic acid.
9. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises urea.
10. A process for adjusting the rheological properties of aqueous systems by adding the thickener preparation of claim 1 to the aqueous
- 30 system.
11. A composition of matter containing the thickener preparation of claim 1.

12. The composition of matter of claim 11, wherein the composition is an aqueous automotive and industrial lacquer, a stucco- or other paint, a printing ink or a textile dye, a pigment printing paste, an aqueous pharmaceutical and cosmetic formulation, a plant protection
- 5 formulation, a filler or a pigment dispersion, a preparation of a detergent, adhesive, wax or polish or a preparation for petroleum extraction.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25